

2005

CITY OF LAS VEGAS



Youth Commission

Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT

**We the members of the Youth Commission devote our time and effort to
initiate change in our community through the voice of our youth**

MEMBERS

Diana Carrillo – Senior - West Las Vegas High
Shantel Encinias – Freshman - West Las Vegas High
Estevan Flores - Sophomore - West Las Vegas High
Chris Gonzales - Freshman - West Las Vegas High
Jen Ha – Junior - Robertson High School
Justin Killian - Seventh Grade - WLW family Partnership
Alicia Leger – Freshman - Robertson High School
Adam Lujan - Junior - West Las Vegas High
Jolene Johnna Martinez – Sixth Grade – Memorial Middle School
Isaiah Ortiz – Freshman – West Las Vegas High
Lucas Sanchez – Junior – West Las Vegas High

ADVISOR

Karlene Martinez

STUDENT ADVISORS

Sarah Flores
Ane Romero

VOLUNTEER

Patrick Snedeker – San Miguel County Detention Center

SUPPORTER

Eric Romero – NMHU – Center for Educational Studies of Diverse
Populations

The Las Vegas Youth Commission (YC) has been active in various endeavors within the community, including community service, peer education, community awareness, policy review, group development and training. In addition we work with others in our community in order to strengthen the youth voice.



Youth Commission Regular meeting



Christmas meeting

The following is a summary of activities for the year 2005.

Local Committees with YC representation:

We participate on several community committees. We have been invited but have not yet designated a representative for the Transportation Board meetings. We also are working on more collaboration with other youth groups.

Keep America Beautiful
San Miguel County State Police Advisory Council
San Miguel County Detention Center Advisory Council

Youth Collaboration:

Underage Drinking Laws presentation at LCC with representation from Youth Alcohol Prevention Program (YAPP), YouthBuild, YC and Las Vegas Chief of Police, Tim Gallegos. November 17, 2005

A community meeting was held at Estella's to address issues between local Bridge Street businesses and skateboarders. YC attends to listen to the voice of skateboarders and provide support and input. September 26, 2005.

YC participates on the UNM Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program to identify youth issues in Las Vegas. The issues identified were from local youth in the community not just the YC. Issues included #1 Nothing to do, #2 Child Abuse and Neglect, #3 Sex and Sexuality, #4 Lack of Respect, Trust, and Confidence in Youth, #5 Substance Use and Abuse. June 24, 2005. The youth also identified possible solutions to some of the problems. A report can be obtained from the OK Café.

Community Service Activities:

We work on community service activities, community awareness, and peer education. From a youth point of view we address issues such as community image, suicide, underage drinking and overall youth issues.



Chasity Vigil and Adam Lujan

YC ushering support for the Las Vegas Local Talent Concert with the Legislators



Estevan Flores

YC voted to adopt the breezeway next to the OK Café to keep trash picked up.

ARE MONTAÑA RECREATION CENTER MEADOW CITY EXPRESS
COMMUNITIES THAT CARE & LAS VEGAS YOUTH COMMISSION

**SUMMER FUN
RECREATION PASS**

Would you like to swim, play basketball, skate in the skate park or play basketball but don't have a ride? The Youth Summer Fun Pass is now available for \$10. This includes one one-way ride and five minutes of swimming.*

PICK-UP/DROP OFF Lincoln Park 8:00 am & 12:00 pm	PICK-UP/DROP OFF Hanna Park 8:15 am & 12:15 pm
PICK-UP/DROP OFF Carnegie Library 8:00 am & 12:00 pm	PICK-UP/DROP OFF Plaza Park 8:15 am & 12:15 pm

Call 454-1401 Ext. 275
426-1739 454-8583
For More Information

*CASHIER NUMBER 7 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT, GUARDIAN, YOUTH, AND YOUTH AGENCY



Mark Loera, Denise Abreau, Chasity Vigil & Estevan Flores

YC collaborated with Director of Recreation, Mark Loera and Director of Transportation, Denise Abreu to implement the Summer Fun Pass for youth access to the Rec. Center. This program did not take off as planned. However, the YC would like to collaborate again next year and take more time for planning. Arts and Stones on the plaza supported the program and bought 10 passes to give to youth in exchange for some community beautification around the plaza. Two youth actually took advantage of this opportunity. This is a great idea to help youth to be invested in their community.

Community Awareness:

We do various activities to let the community know who we are; we share youth issues that affect our lives. We want to create a positive image of youth in our community. We have found that more people are listening, now. That tells us that we are making some changes.



Youth Commission Display at Las Vegas Night with the Legislators, January 2005
And the YC participating in festivities at NMHU ballroom



Estevan Flores, Ane Romero and Chasity Vigil

YC participates on KNMX radio station to discuss issues of self esteem, suicide and talk about the YC. June 2005. We also participated in the Youth Risk and Resiliency program. April 2005. We discussed issues that youth deal with, which are reflected in this survey. The survey was administered to selected 9-12th graders at WLV, Robertson and Pecos High Schools in 2003.

The YC has also recorded PSAs during prom and graduation regarding substance abuse, abstinence, suicide and underage drinking. April 2005. And during Trek for Trash, September 2005

We have conducted Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention during Week without Violence and at Robertson Homecoming. Yellow balloons were released to commemorate victims of suicide during Replacing Violence with Sports celebration at the Rec. Center. October 22, 2005, and during halftime at the RHS homecoming game in September. Ane Romero provided support.

Peer Education:

As mentioned earlier the YC partnered with YAPP, YouthBuild, and Chief Gallegos to educate youth from Pecos at Luna Community College of the *Underage Drinking Laws in New Mexico*. November 17, 2005

Suicide Prevention has taken place under the direction of Ane Romero at WLW Middle School, High School and some elementary schools. This education has also been introduced to the Las Vegas City Schools and New Mexico Highlands University.

The Youth Commission has provided some facilitation and help with organization of meetings and needs assessment for the San Miguel County Detention Center Advisory Committee.

Policy:

It was requested of the YC to review the Alcohol Beverage Control Ordinance. This was completed and a brief report was submitted to the Community Development Director. August 2005

The YC also conducted a review of Grievance Procedures for the SMC Detention Center and recommendations were presented at a November meeting of the SMC Detention Center Advisory Meeting.

Legislation:

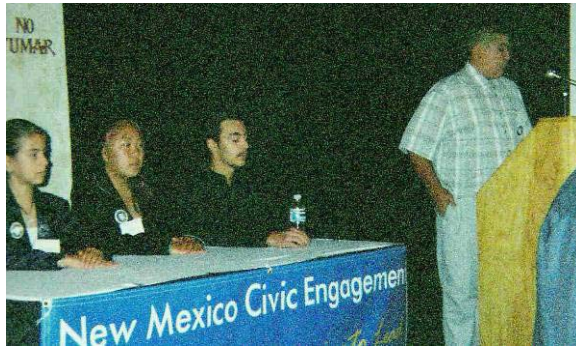
YC attend the 2005 Legislature where Ane Romero presented a memorial to implement Suicide Prevention programs in all school districts in the state of New Mexico. This memorial passed both the senate and the house.

Estevan Flores delivered copies of the YC Evaluation Plan '04 to Gov. Richardson's office and Lt. Gov. Diane Denish's office.



Diana Carrillo, Chasity Vigil Estevan Flores & Lt. Gov. Denish

Presentation of YC History to Lt. Gov. Diane Denish during 4th of July Fiesta.



Jolene Martinez, Jen Ha, Lucas Sanchez, and Estevan Flores



Lucas Sanchez, Jolene Martinez, Sen. Ortiz y Pino, Estevan Flores, & Jen Ha

YC conducts their presentation at NMCE Legislative roundtable to: Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino, Rep. Jeannette O. Wallace, Rep. Rick Miera, Rep Miguel Garcia. This presentation consisted of a power point presentation requesting funding for a youth center and a youth coordinator. At this event they also participated in a Youth Radio Town Hall. November 10, 2005

YC submits ideas with budgets to the Gross Receipts Tax Committee. We proposed three separate ideas. #1 was a proposal for a youth center. #2 was Skate Park Alternatives, and #3 was lighting for the West Las Vegas football field. September 27, 2005.

Training:

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Training given by Ane Romero. November 2004

Estevan Flores attends the ENLACE cultural leadership training in El Rito, July 2005

Diana Carrillo participated in the New Mexico Jr. State Police Academy in Raton June 2005

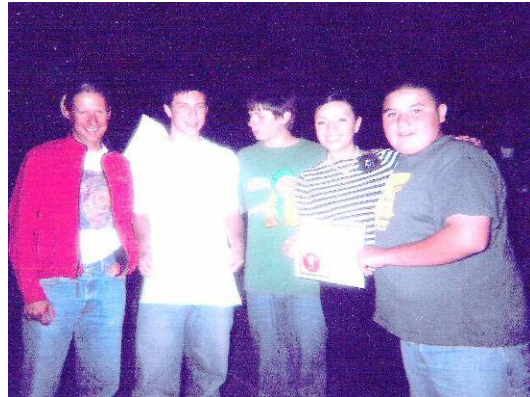


Adam Lujan, Isaiah Ortiz, Estevan Flores and Karlene Martinez attend the 2005 Gathering of the New Mexico Civic Engagement in June at the UNM campus.

Awards and recognition:



A.J Johnson, Estevan Flores, Councilman Louie Trujillo, and Francesco Rosetti



Former Gov. Gary Johnson, Francesco Rosetti, AJ Johnson, Ane Romero, and Estevan Flores



We have identified positive community image as one of our priorities. The Youth Commission has participated in Trek for Trash for the past three years. The YC was awarded a Bellisimo Award for contributions to Keep Las Vegas Beautiful. In addition the Youth Commission recognized other youth for their contributions. September 17, 2005.



Front page recognition by the Las Vegas Daily Optic

The YC is recognized by the NMCE as a model program for Youth in Government.

Other stuff:

Estevan Flores and Alicia Leger have been awarded a \$200 scholarship to attend the National Youth Service Learning Conference in Philadelphia, March 2006. These two individuals were awarded this based on an essay they presented describing their involvement in service learning. NMCE will provide additional support for Estevan, Alicia and Karlene to attend.

Five new members were appointed by Mayor and Council on November 16, 2005. They are Shantel Encinias, Chris Gonzales, Justin Killian, Alicia Leger and Jolene Johnna Martinez. The process includes a completed application, an interview, selection and appointment by Mayor and Council.



Warden Patrick Snedeker, Shantel Encinias, Jolene Martinez, Alicia Leger, Estevan Flores II, Sarah Flores, Diana Carrillo, Jen Ha and Lucas Sanchez



Sarah Flores, Chasity Vigil, Estevan Flores, Ane Romero, Jen Ha, Diana Carrillo, Johnna Martinez

One of our student advisors, Ane Romero was selected Miss New Mexico 2005

That pretty much sums up our year. We hope that we have made contributions to our community and created a more positive image of youth. We also hope that our voice is being heard and that other youth know that we can help them have a voice too. The following is our Code of Ethics we adopted last year.

YOUTH COMMISSION CODE OF ETHICS

Youth Commission's primary responsibility is to provide a voice for youth, and promote the well being of youth in our community.

Members should exhibit self-respect and respect for others at *all* times

Members should act in a manner that represents them as a respectful, responsible, competent member of the community at all times.

Members should maintain a level of commitment that contributes to the effectiveness of the group.

Members should avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with the progressive functions of the Youth Commission.

Members should not use derogatory language in their written or verbal communications.

Members who have direct knowledge of another member's behavior that is related to substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs) should assist that person in taking remedial action.

Members who believe that another member's behavior has a direct impact on the group as a whole and has not taken adequate steps to change behavior should take action through appropriate channels established by the Commission.

Leaving My Mark

I can't leave without
Leaving my mark.
So those who never knew me
Will know of me
I can't leave without having the last word
All those in favor say, "I"
All those oppose say "Nay"
I can't leave without
Receiving a hug a
Promise to keep in touch
Exchange of e-mail and
Phone numbers
And I cannot leave
Without trying not to cry
Because you're more to me
Than people I work with
No, we are more than that
We are friends
And I can't leave without
Hitting the gavel on the table
One last time
Without having fun and
I can't leave without leaving
My mark.

By Chasity Vigil

Chasity was one of our most active members who moved to Pecos in August of this year. She would like to start a Youth Commission in Pecos.